Met Office Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Saturday 23 Dec 2023 until 23:59 on Sunday 24 Dec 2023

Forecast Issued on Friday 22 Dec 2023 at 11:35

Confidence: High confidence for a continuation of windy conditions over Christmas, winds easing for Boxing day. Confidence is lower for amount of showers and rainfall over the weekend. Perhaps a colder spell around the 27th December.

Headline for Saturday 23 Dec 2023: Outbreaks of rain, heavy at times, perhaps drier during daylight hours but widespread gales likely, often poor visibility.

Mountain weather hazards on Saturday 23 Dec 2023

Blizzards
No Likelihood

Gales
High Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent snow
No Likelihood

Severe chill effect
Low Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
No Likelihood

Storm force winds
Low Likelihood

Poor visibility
Medium Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Drizzle	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Dull	Light rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain
Precipitation probability							
30%	80%	80%	30%	40%	50%	80%	80%

Forecast for Saturday 23 Dec 2023

Weather: Rain will be persistent at times early on Saturday but easing and becoming light and patchy through daylight hours. Remaining overcast and quite dull with gales throughout the day, perhaps the odd brighter spell towards the east of the National Park. Heavier rain will return on Saturday evening.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 50% decreasing to 30% during the day. Extensive low cloud due to rain.

Low cloud and visibility: Low cloud will affect the area for much of the day becoming more extensive during the morning. Layers of broken cloud above 400m can be expected, perhaps a few breaks further south and east during the morning. Visibility will also be moderate or poor at times during heavier rain with limited views expected at height.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
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Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Saturday 23 Dec 2023

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	49/63 W	47/60 W	48/61 W	43/55 W	41/54 W	42/55 W	41/54 SW	43/58 SW	42/56 W
600	39/54 W	37/52 W	37/51 W	34/47 W	32/45 W	33/47 W	32/45 SW	33/48 SW	32/47 W
300	17/45 W	16/43 W	17/43 W	14/39 W	14/38 W	14/39 W	14/37 SW	15/39 SW	14/37 W
Valley	16/39 W	16/38 W	15/37 W	13/33 W	14/33 W	14/35 W	16/35 SW	16/36 SW	16/34 W

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	4/-4	4/-4	3/-6	3/-5	4/-3	4/-3	5/-2	5/-2	6/-0
600	5/-1	6/-1	5/-2	5/-1	6/0	6/0	6/0	7/1	8/2
300	7/3	7/4	7/3	7/4	8/4	8/4	8/5	8/5	10/6
Valley	9/6	10/6	10/6	10/7	10/7	10/7	10/7	10/7	11/8
Freezing Level*	1600m	1700m	1500m	2200m	2200m	2200m	2100m	2800m	2800m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Another very windy day with severe gales at height and perhaps some storm force gust on the summits early in the day. Feeling cold in rain and very strong winds.

Forecast for Sunday 24 Dec 2023

Weather: Light overnight rain will ease with a few bright spells at first. Turning showery during Christmas Eve and showers often grouping together to give longer spells of rain. Showers will be blustery with strong winds expected again. Gales, perhaps severe gales on the higher ground making progress walking difficult with windchill increasing later in the day.

Maximum wind: Southwesterly 30-35mph with gusts 50-55mph.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 40% increasing to 60% during the day.

Low cloud and visibility: Scattered or broken cloud above 500m will lift and clear during the day, perhaps thickening and lowering in showers or any longer periods of rain. Visibility will be moderate or poor initially but will be good out with showers later.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 12 falling to 8 Celsius.
At 800m: Plus 6 falling to 2 Celsius.
Freezing level: Above all summits falling to 1000m.

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Friday 22 December 2023 Location: Helvellyn summit at 12:15 Full report: At the time of writing, Saturday's forecast is for very similar weather to today's (including the wind strength), so walkers out on Saturday are liable to experience extremely similar conditions to those experienced and described today. All Lakeland paths are clear of snow and ice as is the vast majority of the fells up to and including summit level. Indeed only 3 totally insignificant small patches of snow were seen at all today in sheltered hollows on steep north facing slopes. With the lack of winter conditions, the main hazard encountered today was the strength of the wind and, specifically, its very gusty nature (varying between c20 and 49mph when measured on the summit at around midday). When combined with the cloud/drizzle/rain and especially occasional hail this made for challenging conditions quickly chilling those with inadequate outer waterproof clothing. The gusty nature of the strong wind combined with wet, slippery rock makes for treacherous conditions on steep and exposed terrain such the Helvellyn edges. Despite the milder weather in the valleys, the summit temperature was not far off zero - plus 3 degrees C - with the windchill (what the temperature actually feels like) below at minus 6 degrees C at around midday. Thus, full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat and gloves), mountain boots and equipment including a torch, map and compass are all essential to safely roam the fells. This is not just for safety, but also enjoyment as people today were complaining about freezing hands (no gloves) and generally cold (lack of waterproof overtrousers). Dressed appropriately, you will have an infinitely more pleasant experience in these challenging conditions. Temperature: plus 3.0 C, Maximum wind speed 48.5 mph, Wind chill: minus 6.3 C, Average wind speed: 31.1 mph

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